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BOROUGH OF NELSON

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1944

G. J. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE (Vice-Chairman)

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR D. J. SPEAK).

ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER

„ W. H. HINDLE

„ R. J. HUSBAND

„ A. SMITH

„ H. W. THROUP

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD

„ E. BYWATER

„ W. HOPKINSON

„ W. PENNINGTON

„ A. SHACKLETON

„ S. SHAW

„ H. H. URSELL

„ J. WIDDUP

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR D. J. SPEAK).

ALDERMAN W. H. HINDLE

„ A. SMITH

„ H. W. THROUP

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD

„ H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE

„ W. HOPKINSON

„ W. PENNINGTON

„ S. SHAW

MRS. V. WESTWELL

MISS S. E. WHITTAKER

[Died 18th January, 1945].

Medical Officer of Health G. J. ROBERTS,
M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Consultants for Puerperal Pyrexia and Consultant
Obstetricians :

J. H. WATSON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

(Died 27th November, 1944).

A. CALLAM, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Chief Sanitary Inspector J. W. INGHAM, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Inspector S. GRINDROD, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Inspector and Chief Clerk S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.

Clerk A. WILDMAN

Housing Records Supervisor N. GRIFFITHS
(on active service).

Temporary Junior Clerk G. WALTON

Health Visitors :

MISS F. M. FARRAR, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS H. HARGREAVES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MRS. A. H. FRANKLAND, S.R.N., C.M.B.*

(to November, 1944).

MISS M. TORKINGTON, S.R.N., S.C.M.*

(from November, 1944).

Matron, Maternity Home MISS N. COOK, S.R.N., S.C.M.
(to July, 1944).

MRS. P. M. BALLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M.

(from July, 1944).

Matron, Grove House War-time Nursery

MRS. M. SWINSON, S.R.N.

* Part-time.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

21 CARR ROAD, NELSON.

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In the absence of your Medical Officer of Health on active service, it has fallen to my lot to present to you a report on the health of the Borough and the work carried out by the Public Health Department during 1944, and this I have pleasure in doing. Having played no part in the administration of the department during the period under review, I propose making no comments thereon, beyond the fact of allowing the figures to speak for themselves to show that the work has been carried out very satisfactorily and reflects credit on your absent Medical Officer and the staff under his control. You will appreciate that in the compilation of the report, I have had to rely entirely on the staff of the department for details of the work carried out.

Three outstanding points in the vital statistics are worthy of mention, namely, the Infantile Mortality Rate for your Borough is the lowest ever recorded and must be amongst the lowest recorded for the country, the birth rate is the highest since 1921, and for the first time since 1926 the number of births exceeds the number of deaths.

In compiling the report, certain statistics have had to be supplied by other officials of the Corporation and also by the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff, and to these many thanks are extended; also I am sure Dr. Roberts would wish to be recorded his thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support given to him throughout the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. ROBINSON.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY—1944.

Area in acres	3,466
Population—Census, 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population—	
mid-year, 1944	31,420
Number of inhabited houses—	
(a) Census, 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1944, according to rate books	11,930
Rate	14s. 10d. in the £
Rateable value	£244,416
Sum represented by a penny rate	£955-6-6

The cost of the Health Services for the financial year 1944-45 was estimated at £10,458, which is equivalent to a rate of 11.82d. in the £.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate.
Live Births :				
Total	253	239	492	15.6 per thousand of population.
Illegitimate	17	16	33	
Still Births :				
Total	7	5	12	23.8 per thousand births (live and still).
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths	254	227	481	15.3 per thousand of population.
Death of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Total	6	6	12	24 per thousand live births.
Legitimate	4	5	9	19 per thousand legitimate births.
Illegitimate	2	1	3	90 per thousand illegitimate births.
Maternal Deaths :				
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	Nil
Other puerperal causes	—	1	1	2.0 per 1,000 live births. 1.9 per 1,000 total births.

There was an increase of 72 births in 1944 on the number of births occurring in 1943, and the Birth Rate of 15.6 per 1,000 births is the highest recorded since 1921.

Deaths in Nelson amounted to 367, but 18 of these were non-residents. 132 deaths of Nelson residents occurred in other districts, the corrected total of 481 giving a local death rate of 15.3 per 1,000 inhabitants. The Birth and Death Rates are calculated on an assumed population of 31,420, this being a reduction of 170 on the assumed population at mid-year 1943. For the first time since 1926 the number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths, though the difference is only slight, i.e., 11.

There were only 12 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 24 per 1,000 live births. This figure is the lowest on record for Nelson.

Comparative vital statistics are given in Appendices II. and III.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are summarised in Appendix I., a summary of the chief causes being:—

Cause of Death.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of total deaths.	Death Rate
Heart disease	144	29.9	4.58
Cancer	77	16.0	2.45
Chest diseases, excluding tuberculosis	27	5.6	0.85
Intracranial vascular lesions	66	13.7	2.10
Infectious diseases including influenza but not tuberculosis	14	2.9	0.44
Tuberculosis, all forms	19	3.9	0.60
Violent causes	21	4.3	0.66

Of deaths from all causes 44.1% of the male deaths and 49.7% of the female deaths were in respect of persons of 70 years and over. Combined, the percentage is 46.7 of the total deaths, compared with 44.5% in 1943.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

General hospital accommodation remains unchanged.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

During the year 1 case of Measles and 3 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were visited by the District Nurses under the existing arrangements with the local Nursing Association, 74 visits being made.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Records taken at the Meteorological Station show that rain fell on 217 days, the total rainfall for the year being 50.67 inches (44.00 inches in 1943). The wettest month was November with 7.54 inches, and the driest March with 0.84 inches.

Bright sunshine was recorded on 260 days, totalling 946.6 hours, a daily average of 2.6 hours. In 1943 1203.8 hours of sunshine were recorded, with a daily average of 3.3 hours. The mean temperature for the year was 47.4°.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the source of public water supply during the year. Apart from the presence of trespassing sheep on the Coldwell catchment area the risk of pollution has been reduced to a minimum and bacteriological samples of unfiltered water confirm this. There is still evidence of minor contamination of the Ogden gathering grounds due to farming and also to other temporary and unavoidable causes. Frequent water sampling, inspection of the catchment area and keen attention to filtration are the safeguards taken to deal with this problem. As self-purification is restricted by the small storage capacity of the reservoirs, an additional precaution for the safety of the supply is introduced by the chlorination of all water after filtration.

The average daily consumption of water in the Waterworks area of supply was 1,884,579 gallons (which includes the compensation water discharge from the Coldwell Reservoir), averaging 41.3 gallons per head. There was no curtailment of the supply during 1944.

Routine tests are carried out by the Water Engineer to ascertain the purity of the water and samples are submitted at regular intervals to a public analyst for complete analysis and examination.

In seven houses old joint service pipes were replaced by new mains with separate service pipes to each house; since the inception of this scheme 428 rows of houses have been dealt with.

There are approximately 423 houses in the town with inadequate internal water supply due to defective (joint) service piping—the latter being the owner's responsibility, although the local authority gives financial assistance in providing a separate service pipe to each property.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has been no change during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Pollution Acts are administered by the Ribble Joint Committee.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens (in town)	1
Number of Pail Closets	46
Number of Fresh Water Closets	4,944
Number of Waste Water Closets	7,771
Number of Dry Ashpits, excluding Middens	20
Number of Portable Receptacles for refuse	12,320
Conversions :	
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	45

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Carried out by direct labour under the control of the Cleansing Superintendent. No changes in procedure have occurred during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1944.

No. of complaints of nuisances received and investigated...	114
No. of premises in general inspected	2281
No. of premises in general re-inspected	137
No. of premises in general visited	171
No. of inspections: Stables	56
Licensed premises	19
Bakehouses—Power	79
Non-power	34
Meat stalls	237
Dairies and cowsheds	36
Housing	120

No. of visits—Infectious diseases	404
Total No. of defects or matters requiring attention found...	161
Verbal notices given	88
Informal notices sent	30
Informal and verbal notices complied with	114
Legal notices sent	2
Legal notices complied with	2
Smoke observations	51

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

51 smoke observations were taken during the year, 33 chimneys being affected. In 31 instances no black smoke was emitted during the time of observation, in 16 instances the emission of black smoke was under the prescribed limit, i.e. 5 minutes in 30 minutes, and in 4 instances the emission of black smoke exceeded the limit. In these 4 cases the attention of the owners of the chimney was called to the result of the observation and they were requested to take all possible steps to minimise the nuisance.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

At the end of 1944 the register showed 264 factories with mechanical power and 80 without. Inspections of these during the year were 91 and 60 respectively. 10 defects were found, of which 4 were notified by H.M. Factory Inspector.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during 1944. The estimate regarding types of houses given in the 1943 report, i.e. through (terrace) 10,072, semi-detached, 1,325, bungalow 298, back-to-back 107, single 85, detached 60, flats 22 and cellars 6, can be regarded as an indication of the position at the end of 1944.

On the whole, from a sanitary standpoint, housing conditions can be regarded as fairly satisfactory. There is no doubt that a shortage of housing accommodation exists and that this will become more accentuated. An indication of this is the number of applications made for Corporation houses as they become available. Powers given to the Authority to requisition and make habitable empty houses have been enforced, and some 50 houses have been dealt with during the year. Two rows of houses which had been allowed to get into a very bad

state of repair are being dealt with; the necessary work, however, had not been fully completed by the year end. Throughout the year the shortage of both labour and materials has intensified the difficulty of having repairs and renovations carried out; consequently the condition of property has to some extent deteriorated. Where sanitary defects have been found every effort has been made to expedite the work.

During the year inspection, following the receipt of a complaint, necessitated either verbal or informal notices being given in respect of 96 houses. Matters dealt with by these notices included, defective sanitary accommodation 19, defective waste pipes 8, defective drains 10, defective roofs, troughing or fall-pipes 32, internal structural defects 25, lack of cleanliness 9, water leakage 3, dry rot 2, other conditions 5.

One complaint of overcrowding was investigated during the year.

BUG ERADICATION.

Disinfestation, by means of special preparations used as a spray, and fumigation by sulphur or formalin, has been carried out in 18 houses, involving 86 rooms. 30 visits were paid to these premises.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register of cowkeepers and dairymen is amended as changes of occupation occur. At the end of the year there were on the register

- 4 dairy cowkeepers who retail milk outside the Borough,
- 5 dairy cowkeepers who dispose of the milk wholesale,
- 19 dairy cowkeepers who retail milk within the Borough,
- 37 dairy cowkeepers whose premises are not in Nelson but who retail milk within the Borough,
- 6 milk purveyors only.

There are two dairies within the Borough at which milk is bottled for distribution. Only one farm in the Borough produces designated milk (T.T.), this being sold wholesale. A quantity of T.T. milk, accredited milk and pasteurised milk is retailed locally; there is, however, no pasteurising plant in the Borough. Routine testing of informal samples of milk is

carried out in the Public Health Laboratory, and a report is sent to the vendors of the milk giving the result of the various tests carried out.

In all 287 samples were tested, of which 198 were purchased from vendors, 62 obtained at schools and 27 were submitted for examination purposes. Results of the various tests carried out show :—

- (a) Analysis for milk fat, 282 samples—genuine 251, deficient 31.
- (b) Analysis for other solids, 282 samples—genuine 278, deficient 4.
- (c) Examination for visible cleanliness, 273 samples—satisfactory 272, not satisfactory 1.
- (d) Methylene blue test, 273 samples—satisfactory 252, did not attain standard 21.
- (e) Coliform test, 275 samples—
 - showing *B. coli* absent in 0.01 c.c. 176,
 - showing *B. coli* present in 0.01 c.c. 99.
- (f) Resazurin test, 271 samples—excellent 73, very good 105, good 68, fair 17, poor 3, bad 5.
- (g) Bacterial count, 22 samples—

under 10,000 per c.c.	11
10,000 to 50,000	6
50,000 to 100,000	1
100,000 to 200,000	1
300,000 to 400,000	1
over 2,000,000	2
- (h) Phosphatase test, 44 samples—satisfactory 20, not pasteurised 24.
- (i) Tubercle bacilli, 42 samples—Negative 39, positive 3.

OTHER FOODS.

Controlled slaughtering at central premises in Colne has continued throughout the year. There were, however, 16 pigs killed privately on farm premises, permission for such slaughtering being granted through the Food Office. These carcasses were all examined and passed by the Sanitary Inspector.

Inspection of shops, stalls and vehicles where meat or prepared food is sold has been carried out in routine duties.

Food stuffs are submitted from time to time, and, if found unfit for human consumption, condemnation certificates are issued. The following list gives details of the amount of food stuffs condemned during the year.

Veal, 1 carcase	30	lbs.
Bacon	12	lbs.
Fish	12	lbs.
Soya flour	350	lbs.
Milk powder	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	cwt.
Sausage rusks	5	cwt.
Raisins	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Jam	34	lbs.
Baking powder	120	lbs.
Tea	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Coffee	3	bottles
Sauce	2	bottles

Tinned Goods :

Meat	162 tins	...	294	lbs.
Fish	38 tins	...	26	lbs.
Soups	74 tins	...	67	lbs.
Milk	160 tins			
Jam	63 tins	...	98	lbs.
Vegetables	61 tins			
Fruit	10 tins	...	20	lbs.
Tomato purée	536 tins	...	3752	lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Administration of this Act is carried out by the Lancashire County Council, and Dr. Hall, the County Medical Officer of Health, informs me that during the year his officer obtained 9 samples of milk from Nelson, all of which on analysis were found to be genuine.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year a total of 409 cases were notified, a decrease of 422 on the number notified during 1943. This is accounted for mainly by decreases in the number of cases of scarlet fever and measles.

Details of the notifications for this and the previous year are :—

Disease.	Cases notified			Cases removed to Hospital			Deaths	
	1944.	1943.		1944.	1943.		1944.	1943.
Scarlet fever	137	202	...	84	142	...	—	1
Diphtheria	37	8	...	37	7	...	8	—
Enteric fever	1	—	..	1	—	...	—	—
Measles	111	442	...	—	2	...	—	—
Whooping cough	78	97	...	1	—	...	2	—
Pneumonia	26	26	...	—	—	...	4	13
Puerperal pyrexia	5	2	...	2	1	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	2	...	—	2	...	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	...	—	1	...	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	4	2	...	—	—	...	—	—
Erysipelas	9	10	...	1	1	...	—	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	24	22	...	22	15	...	17	12
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	14	17	...	6	5	...	2	6

Scarlet Fever, though showing a reduction in the number of cases compared with 1943, was persistent throughout the year, without at any time assuming epidemic proportions. 84 cases were removed to hospital and there were two return cases. Generally the infection was of a mild type and no deaths occurred from the disease. 76% of the cases were children in attendance at school.

There was an increase in the number of cases of **Diphtheria** compared with the previous year. All the cases were removed to hospital, and it was found in many cases that the disease was of a very serious type. 8 deaths occurred, giving a case mortality rate for the year of 21.6%. The ages of the patients who succumbed to the disease were 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 17 and 24 years, and in no instance had the patient been immunised against diphtheria. Details of the remaining 29 cases show 3 patients in the under 5 age group, of whom none had been immunised, 15 patients between the ages of 5 and 15 years, of whom 6 had been immunised and 9 not immunised, and 11 patients 15 years of age or over, none of whom had been immunised. The cases were distributed throughout the year, there being only one month (October) in which no case was notified.

Under the Diphtheria Immunisation scheme 386 pre-school children, 118 school children and 11 who were over school age

have completed treatment during the year. This gives a total of 4,116 (all ages) who have been immunised since the inauguration of the scheme in 1941. At the end of the year it was estimated that 55% of children under 5 years and 71% between the ages of 5 and 15 years had been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Numbers of persons inoculated annually 1941-1944.

Ages	Year				Total inoculated in each Group at 31/12/1944
	1941	1942	1943	1944	
0 —	4	7	1	—	Under 5 years old on 31/12/1944 : 1041
1 —	41	216	192	186	
2 —	58	128	39	125	
3 —	67	134	27	40	
4 —	100	112	45	35	
5 —	156	149	29	24	Aged 5 to 15 years on 31/12/1944 : 2723
6 —	153	93	18	22	
7 —	167	80	20	11	
8 —	172	102	16	13	
9 —	168	96	8	14	
10—	182	104	12	7	
11—	153	84	10	9	
12—	129	91	17	5	
13—	118	75	9	3	
14—	3	12	4	10	
15 and over	—	—	—	11	15 years and over on 31/12/1944 : 352
Totals	1671	1488	447	515	All ages : 4116

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Police Station and is available to local practitioners at all times. During the year 36 phials, each of 8,000 units, have been requisitioned.

Measles was quiescent most of the year, 84 cases or approximately 76% being notified in May and June. No cases were notified in the first two and last two months of the year. No deaths occurred from this disease, nor were any cases reported with complications requiring nursing assistance.

Cases of **Whooping Cough** occurred throughout the year, May and June being the months with the greatest number of cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. G. Barker Charnock, the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area, has kindly supplied the following particulars relating to Nelson patients:—

Notifications of new cases number 19 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary (totalling 31), and of 141 new patients—132 of whom were examined at the Dispensary and 9 at their homes—27 were found to be suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous. There were 253 re-examinations of “old” cases and with regard to treatment 7 “early” cases were admitted to sanatorium, 12 advanced cases to hospital and 10 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; X-ray examinations totalled 166. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 31 primary and 340 subsequent visits to patients. During the year 6 pulmonary and 16 non-pulmonary cases were written off as “recovered.”

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Centre provided for this area by the Lancashire County Council is at Burnley, by arrangement with the County Borough of Burnley. Dr. Lamont, the Medical Officer of Health for Burnley, has kindly submitted the following figures relative to persons giving a Nelson address.

Classification	Males			Females		
	Patients on Register at beginning of 1944	New Cases	Total	Patients on Register at beginning of 1944	New Cases	Total
Syphilis, primary.....	3	—	3	—	—	—
„ secondary	3	—	3	3	4	7
„ latent in first year of infection	—	—	—	1	—	1
„ all later stages.....	3	1	4	2	3	5
„ congenital.....	2	—	2	3	2	5
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection	5	16	21	3	8	11
„ later	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-venereal or undiagnosed conditions	1	9	10	1	16	17
Totals	17	26	43	13	33	46

VACCINATION.

The Public Vaccinator has kindly supplied me with figures relative to the above, which show that only 41 infants and 2 adults were successfully vaccinated by him in 1944. These figures bear out the remarks in the 1943 report that there is a marked aversion to vaccination in the Area.

SCABIES.

There was a slight increase in the incidence of scabies, as shown by the number of children attending for treatment at the School Clinic. New cases found during the year amongst school or pre-school children amounted to 110, and in addition 4 adults received treatment, against 98 children and 8 adults in 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

A total of 765 specimens were obtained or submitted for examination during the year, consisting of throat swabs 183, nasal swabs 4, eye swabs 19, ear swabs 3, urine 171, sputum 44, pus for gonococci 22, pus for other organisms 16, pleural fluid 7, cerebro-spinal fluid 3, blood 7, blood films 9, faeces 14, semen 13, hair for ringworm 2, human milk 3, pathological specimens 24, milk deposits 115, animal tissue 69, animal pus 26, other specimens 11. Included in these figures are 5 pathological, 7 blood, 6 faeces, 7 throat swabs and 1 sundry sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley, and 2

urines sent to Edinburgh University for the Ascheim-Zondek reaction test.

DISINFECTION.

501 rooms were fumigated for all purposes, 234 being disinfected by formalin vapour and spray following infectious disease; 543 articles of clothing, 6,108 articles of bedding and 434 miscellaneous articles were treated in the steam disinfectors and 219 in the formalin-vapour chamber.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

No changes in the general arrangements have taken place during the year.

1. Number of births notified in the area served by the Council as Welfare Authority during the year:—

Live births 501. Still births 12. Total 513.

2. Health Visitors.

No. of Health Visitors employed at the end of the year 3
(One Health Visitor is engaged half-time on School Medical Service activities).

No. of visits paid during the year by all Health Visitors:—

(i) to expectant mothers—First visits 257

Total visits 437

(ii) to children under 1 year of age—First visits 529

Total visits 1307

(iii) to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years—

Total visits 4993

3. Infant Welfare Centres.

Address of Centre: 9 Carr Road.

Days and times open—

Non-medical, Tuesday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.

Medical, Wednesday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were

(i) under 1 year of age 278

(ii) over 1 year of age 144

Total number of children under 5 years who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were

(i) under 1 year of age 215

(ii) over 1 year of age	488
Number of doctor's sessions during the year	32
Number of consultations—	
(i) under 1 year of age	132
(ii) over 1 year of age	250

4. Ante-natal Services.

Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council open at 31st December, 1944	2
Address of Clinic	Maternity Home, Fern Lea
Days and times open—	
Monday, 2-0 to 4-0 and 6-0 to 8-0 p.m.	
Thursday, 2-0 to 4-0 p.m.	
Total number of women who attended at the Clinics during the year	381

The arrangement under which the Obstetric Consultant (Dr. J. H. Watson) attended the ante-natal Clinic on one afternoon per month for consultations continued during the year up to October. Dr. Watson's death in November brought to a close this phase of the service, as up to the end of the year a successor had not been appointed to continue this particular work. It is fitting, however, to place on record an appreciation of the work carried out by Dr. Watson on your behalf over a number of years as Obstetric Consultant.

Additional Ante-natal Clinics are held weekly at the Infant Welfare Centre premises, but these are conducted by the two district midwives employed by the Lancashire County Council, attendances being confined to expectant mothers who have made arrangements with these midwives for their services.

During the year the Obstetric Consultant was called in on 18 occasions, 13 of which necessitated a visit to the home of the patient, 4 to Fern Lea Maternity Home and 1 to Bank Hall, Burnley. Resulting from these consultations, 10 cases were admitted to Bank Hall and 1 to Reedyford Hospital, the latter for Caesarean section.

5. Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

Number of separate maternity institutions provided by the Council	1
Name and address of institution—	
Fern Lea Maternity Home, Netherfield Road, Nelson.	

No. of maternity beds (exclusive of isolation and labour beds)	10
Total No. of women admitted to these beds during the year	214
No. of these women admitted from the Council's area	183
No. of beds (included in the figures above) reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment	2
Total No. of expectant mothers treated in these beds during the year	6
Average duration of stay of expectant mothers in ante-natal beds	5 days
Average duration of stay of cases in the lying-in wards	13.5 days
No. of cases delivered by	
(a) Midwives	154
(b) Doctors	56
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	39
No. of cases admitted after delivery	Nil
No. of cases notified as puerperal pyrexia	1
(This case was notified 6 days after discharge from the Home).	
No. of cases of pemphigus neonatorum	3
(In addition to these 3 cases, there were 4 other cases which were undiagnosed at the time of infection).	
No. of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complementary feed whilst in the institution	26
No. of infants wholly breast fed on leaving the institution	178
Average No. of patients in residence per day	7.8
Total No. of patient days	2839
Percentage of patients not residents of Nelson	16.8
Percentage of total births in Fern Lea to notified births in Nelson	41.1
Excluding births relative to out-of-Borough patients, percentage of births in Fern Lea	36.7

Following the notification of 3 cases of pemphigus neonatorum in the Home and intimation that a baby who had

been discharged a day or two previously had also developed symptoms, an investigation was made and a report sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Health. It was found that prior to these cases a further three babies had developed symptoms whilst in the Home, but the condition had not been diagnosed as pemphigus neonatorum. In agreement with the non-medical Supervisor of Midwives a temporary rearrangement of the staff was agreed upon so that isolation of the patients would be complete, no further admissions permitted, and, after discharge of the last patient, the Home was closed for a few days, personal and general disinfection being carried out in the interim. After re-opening on the 7th April, no further case developed.

Fern Lea Maternity Home provides only for normal cases, but an arrangement with the Burnley Corporation now provides accommodation for patients with obstetrical abnormalities at Bank Hall Maternity Hospital. These patients are seen by the Obstetric Consultant (Dr. Callam) and it is on his recommendation they are admitted to the hospital. Your Council accepts responsibility for the payment of the fee to Burnley, the cost to the patient being a consideration of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee on the same lines that admission to Fern Lea is decided. During the year 10 patients were admitted to Bank Hall under this scheme.

6. Care of Premature Infants.

From the 1st June, 1944, amended birth notification cards were in use so that the weight at birth, if less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., could be stated. Since this date 16 such births have been notified.

The scheme for the care of premature infants includes the provision of gamgee jackets, hot water bottles, special feeding pipettes, mucus catheters, and, if necessary, a Home Help. If hospital treatment is imperative, arrangements have been made for infants to be admitted to Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley. For the transit to hospital a hooded basket heated with hot water bottles is provided in the ambulance, an oxygen cylinder is available, and a Health Visitor accompanies the patient. On discharge from hospital notification is sent and the Health Visitors then exercise continuous home supervision. It may be noted that during the year only one death occurred from prematurity.

Other particulars relative to premature babies are :—

No. born at home	5
No. born in maternity home or hospital	11
Of those born at home :	
No. nursed entirely at home	5
No. who died during the first 24 hours	0
No. who survived at the end of one month	4
Of those born in maternity home or hospital :	
No. who died during the first 24 hours	0
No. who survived at the end of one month	11

7. Home Helps.

Though a scheme for the provision of Home Helps in maternity cases had been operative for a number of years, the scheme had become ineffective owing to lack of obtaining suitable persons willing to carry out the duties. In August of this year a definite full-time appointment was made to insure a Home Help being available if needed, and, in the intervals when not engaged on this work, assistance to be given in the welfare work undertaken by the Housing Committee. From this date to the end of the year there were 8 cases in which assistance had been rendered by the Home Help.

8. Infectious Diseases.

	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Pemphigus neonatorum	Puerperal fever	Puerperal pyrexia			
No. of cases notified during							
the year	4	...	3	...	—	...	5
No. of cases visited by							
officers of the Council	4	...	—	...	—	...	5
No. of cases for whom home							
nursing was provided by							
the Council	4	...	—	...	—	...	—
No. of cases removed to							
hospital	—	...	—	...	—	...	3

With regard to the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, recovery was complete in each case, and there was no impairment of vision.

9. Maternal Deaths.

No. of women who died in, or in consequence of, child-birth in the area served by the Council for maternity and child welfare during the year :—

(i) from sepsis	Nil
(ii) from other causes	1

No. of these cases which died :—

(i) at home	Nil
(ii) in institutions	1

This death occurred in Fern Lea Maternity Home, the cause being certified as post-partum internal hæmorrhage. Based on the number of notified births, after allowance for multiple births (3), this death represents a maternal mortality rate of 2.00 per 1,000 live births and 1.98 per 1,000 total births (live and still).

10. Child Life Protection.

	Individual foster mothers	Total
(a) Persons who were receiving children under nine for reward apart from their parents at the end of the year	1 ...	1
(b) No. of children :		
(i) at end of year	1 ...	1
(ii) who died during the year	None ...	None
No. of foster mothers guaranteed payment by Welfare Authority		None
(c) Number of premises wholly or partially exempted ...		None
(d) No. of Child Protection Visitors at end of year who were		
(i) Health Visitors		3
(ii) Others		None
(e) No. of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Health Visitors) or societies authorised to visit, under proviso to Section 209, Public Health Act, 1936		None
(f) Proceedings taken during the year		None

11. Orthopaedic Clinic.

The following particulars relate to the work of the Orthopaedic Clinic (administered by the Lancashire County Council) in respect of Nelson children under school age :—

No. of cases on books at commencement of the year	40
New cases admitted during the year	25
Cases discharged during the year	7
Cases transferred to the School Medical Section	9
(This includes one child who was receiving hospital treatment on reaching the age of five years).	
No. of cases on books at end of the year	49
Total number of attendances	151
No. of cases admitted to hospital	5
No. of cases discharged from hospital	4
No. of cases receiving hospital treatment at end of year	None

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Since 2nd October, 1944, administration of the Civil Ambulance Service has been transferred to the Public Health Department. During the year, the vehicles, of which there are three, have travelled 10,014 miles in the removal of 2,712 patients. A free service is maintained for accident cases and the removal of patients to and from the local hospitals, but a charge is made for long distance travelling according to the mileage covered.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death with Corresponding Rates.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
All causes.	254	227	481	15.30
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	0.00
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	0.00
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—	0.00
4. Whooping cough	1	1	2	0.06
5. Diphtheria	4	4	8	0.25
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	14	3	17	0.54
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	2	0.06
8. Syphilitic disease	1	1	2	0.06
9. Influenza	1	1	2	0.06
10. Measles	—	—	—	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	1	1	2	0.06
13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	2	—	2	0.06
13F. Cancer of uterus	—	5	5	0.16
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	2	10	0.31
15. Cancer of breast	—	8	8	0.25
16. Cancer of all other sites	32	20	52	1.65
17. Diabetes	2	4	6	0.19
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	23	43	66	2.10
19. Heart disease	82	62	144	4.58
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	6	10	0.31
21. Bronchitis	9	8	17	0.54
22. Pneumonia	3	1	4	0.12
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	4	6	0.19
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	4	3	7	0.22
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	1	—	1	0.03
26. Appendicitis	1	—	1	0.03
27. Other digestive diseases	9	5	14	0.44
28. Nephritis	4	9	13	0.41
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	0.00
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1	0.03
31. Premature birth	1	—	1	0.03
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	2	4	6	0.19
33. Suicide	2	1	3	0.09
34. Road traffic accidents	1	—	1	0.03
35. Other violent causes	8	9	17	0.54
36. All other causes	31	20	51	1.62

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1944.

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
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RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Live births	17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	15.6
Still births	0.50	0.64	0.61	0.42	0.38
Deaths :					
All causes	11.6	13.7	12.4	15.7	15.3
Typhoid & paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.06
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.25
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00

RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Deaths under one year of age	46	52	44	61	24
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1	2.0

RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Notifications :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.00
Scarlet fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57	4.36
Whooping cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90	2.48
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31	1.17
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98	3.53
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93	0.82

APPENDIX II. (Contd.)

RATES PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
(a) Notifications :					
Puerperal fever }	10.34	13.13	9.25	{ 3.61	9.92
Puerperal pyrexia }				{ *14.14	

* Including puerperal fever.

(b) Maternal Mortality :

	Abortion with sepsis	Abortion without sepsis	Puerperal infections	Other
England and Wales	0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25
Nelson	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.98

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45.

	With sepsis	Without sepsis
England and Wales	25	7

